

**USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program**  
**Effigy Mounds National Monument**

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***Salix interior* Temporarily Flooded Shrubland**

COMMON NAME	Sandbar Willow Temporarily Flooded Shrubland
SYNONYM	Sandbar Willow Shrubland
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Shrubland (III)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Deciduous shrubland (III.B)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural Cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.N)
FORMATION	Temporarily flooded cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.N.d)
ALLIANCE	SALIX (EXIGUA, INTERIOR) TEMPORARILY FLOODED SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Temporarily flooded cold-deciduous shrubland

**CONCEPT SUMMARY**

***Globally***

This willow shrubland community is found scattered along rivers and streams at lower elevations in parts of the midwestern United States, the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain, and the Appalachians. This type represents an early successional stage of temporarily flooded riparian vegetation that occurs most commonly on alluvial sands. The substrate may also contain silts, clays, and/or gravels. The canopy is dominated by *Salix interior*, which can form dense stands up to 4 m tall. There are often areas where the shrub layer is absent. Seedlings and small saplings of *Populus deltoides* or *Platanus occidentalis* may be present. The herbaceous cover is sparse to moderate, but rarely exceeds 30%. Species present include *Polygonum lapathifolium*, *Eupatorium* spp., *Schoenoplectus americanus* (= *Scirpus americanus*), and *Xanthium strumarium*. The composition of this community, especially the herbaceous layer, varies from year to year with succession or renewed disturbance.

**RANGE**

***Effigy Mounds National Monument***

This community occurs as small stands bordering ponds and along the Yellow and Mississippi Rivers.

***Globally***

This sandbar willow shrubland community is found along rivers and streams at lower elevations in parts of the midwestern United States and parts of the Appalachians, ranging sporadically from South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Illinois south to Oklahoma and Arkansas, and northeast at least to Kentucky. The species ranges north into Canada (Kartesz 1999), but there is no information indicating that it forms stands worthy of recognition as a community anywhere northeast of Kentucky.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION**

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This community develops where sand or silt deposits have been deposited. Flooding is common in the spring.

***Globally***

This community is found on recently deposited or disturbed alluvial material. The parent material is alluvial sand, although silt, clay, or gravel may be present. Soil development is poor to absent.

**MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES**

***Effigy Mounds National Monument***

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
TALL SHRUB	<i>Salix interior</i>

***Globally***

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
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**CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES**

***Effigy Mounds National Monument***

*Salix interior*

***Globally***

**VEGETATION DESCRIPTION**

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*Salix interior* dominates the shrub layer, forming dense stands the 3–4m tall. Herbaceous species are somewhat sparse, with total cover < 25%, but this layer probably varies depending on presence or absence of disturbance. Species present include *Equisetum fluviatilis*, *Laportea canadensis*, *Sichyos lobata*, *Carex lacustris*, *Pilea pumila*, and *Leersia oryzoides*.

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#### **Globally**

This community is dominated by shrubs, generally between 2 and 4 m tall. The most abundant of these is *Salix interior*. Saplings of *Populus deltoides* or *Platanus occidentalis* are also frequently found in the shrub layer. This stratum can have moderate to high stem density in overall composition of the community. The species in the shrub layer do not form a closed canopy, this allows significant light to reach the ground layer. Patches are also frequently found where the shrub layer is absent. The herbaceous cover is sparse to moderate, but rarely exceeds 30%. Older stands and places with less competition from the shrubs may have greater herbaceous cover. The composition of the herbaceous layer can vary greatly; species that are often found in this community include *Polygonum lapathifolium*, *Eupatorium* spp., *Schoenoplectus americanus* (= *Scirpus americanus*), and *Xanthium strumarium*.

#### OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G4G5. This type is moderately widespread and common throughout its range.

DATABASE CODE CEGLO08562

#### COMMENTS

#### **Effigy Mounds National Monument**

Although this type is common along side channels of the Mississippi River, it is of rare occurrence at EFMO.

#### **Globally**

#### REFERENCES

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